

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claim 15 and amend claims 1 and 8 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A charging stand for charging and selectively enclosing and exposing an appliance having a rechargeable battery, the battery being charged by an external power source, comprising:

a base having an access opening for supporting the appliance, said base having electrical contacts for charging the battery and at least one socket for supplying power from the external power source to the contacts;

a cover configured to fit over said base to define an interior space for enclosing the appliance; and

means for securing ~~the~~said cover to ~~the~~said base in at least two positions such that in a first position said cover encloses the appliance with ~~the~~said base and in a second position said cover exposes the appliance; ~~when the appliance is in a raised position.~~

wherein said cover supports said base in said second position while said cover remains attached to said base.

2. (Original) The charging stand of claim 1 wherein said means for securing includes:

a pivot point disposed on said base such that said cover can rotate around said pivot point between a closed position in which said cover covers said base and encloses the appliance, and an open position in which said cover supports said base in a raised position and exposes the appliance.

3. (Original) The charging stand of claim 1 wherein said cover has feet that straddle said base.

4. (Original) The charging stand of claim 3 wherein said feet are configured so that when said cover is in said second position, said feet are generally coextensive with a corresponding end of said base.

5. (Original) The charging stand of claim 1 further having a groove in said base for receiving an edge of said cover in said open position.

6. (Original) The charging stand of claim 1 further having a latch which releasably secures said base and said cover together.

7. (Original) The charging stand of claim 1 wherein said base has an upper end and said latch is disposed on said upper end, said cover has an upper end and is configured at said upper end for receiving said latch.

8. (Currently Amended) A stand for selectively enclosing and exposing an appliance, comprising:

a base having an access opening for supporting the appliance;

a cover configured to fit over said base to define an interior space for enclosing the appliance; and

means for securing ~~the~~said cover to ~~the~~said base in at least two positions such that in a first position said cover encloses the appliance with ~~the~~said base and in a second position said cover exposes the appliance; ~~when the appliance is in a raised position.~~

wherein said cover supports said base in said second position while said cover remains attached to said base.

9. (Original) The charging stand of claim 8 wherein said means for securing includes:

a pivot point disposed on said base such that said cover can rotate around said pivot point between a closed position in which said cover covers said base and encloses the appliance, and an open position in which said cover supports said base in a raised position and exposes the appliance.

10. (Original) The charging stand of claim 8 wherein said cover has feet that straddle said base.

11. (Original) The charging stand of claim 9 wherein said feet are configured so that when said cover is in said second position, said feet are generally coextensive with a corresponding end of said base.

12. (Original) The charging stand of claim 8 further having a groove in said base for receiving an edge of said cover in said open position.

13. (Original) The charging stand of claim 8 further having a latch which releasably secures said base and said cover together.

14. (Original) The charging stand of claim 8 wherein said base has an upper end and said latch is disposed on said upper end, said cover has an upper end and is configured at said upper end for receiving said latch.

15. (New) A charging stand for charging and selectively enclosing and exposing an appliance having a rechargeable battery, the battery being charged by an external power source, comprising:

a base having an access opening for supporting the appliance, said base having electrical contacts for charging the battery and at least one socket for supplying power from the external power source to the contacts;

a cover configured to fit over said base to define an interior space for enclosing the appliance; and

means for securing said cover to said base in at least two positions such that in a first position said cover encloses the appliance with said base and in a second position said cover exposes the appliance when the appliance is in a raised position;

wherein said means for securing said cover to said base comprises a pivot point disposed on said base such that said cover can rotate around said pivot point between a closed position in which said cover covers said base and encloses the appliance, and an open position in which said cover supports said base in a raised position and exposes the appliance.